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OIL AND GAS

**SURFACE OPERATING STANDARDS FOR OIL & GAS
EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Prepared by United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management • Geological Survey

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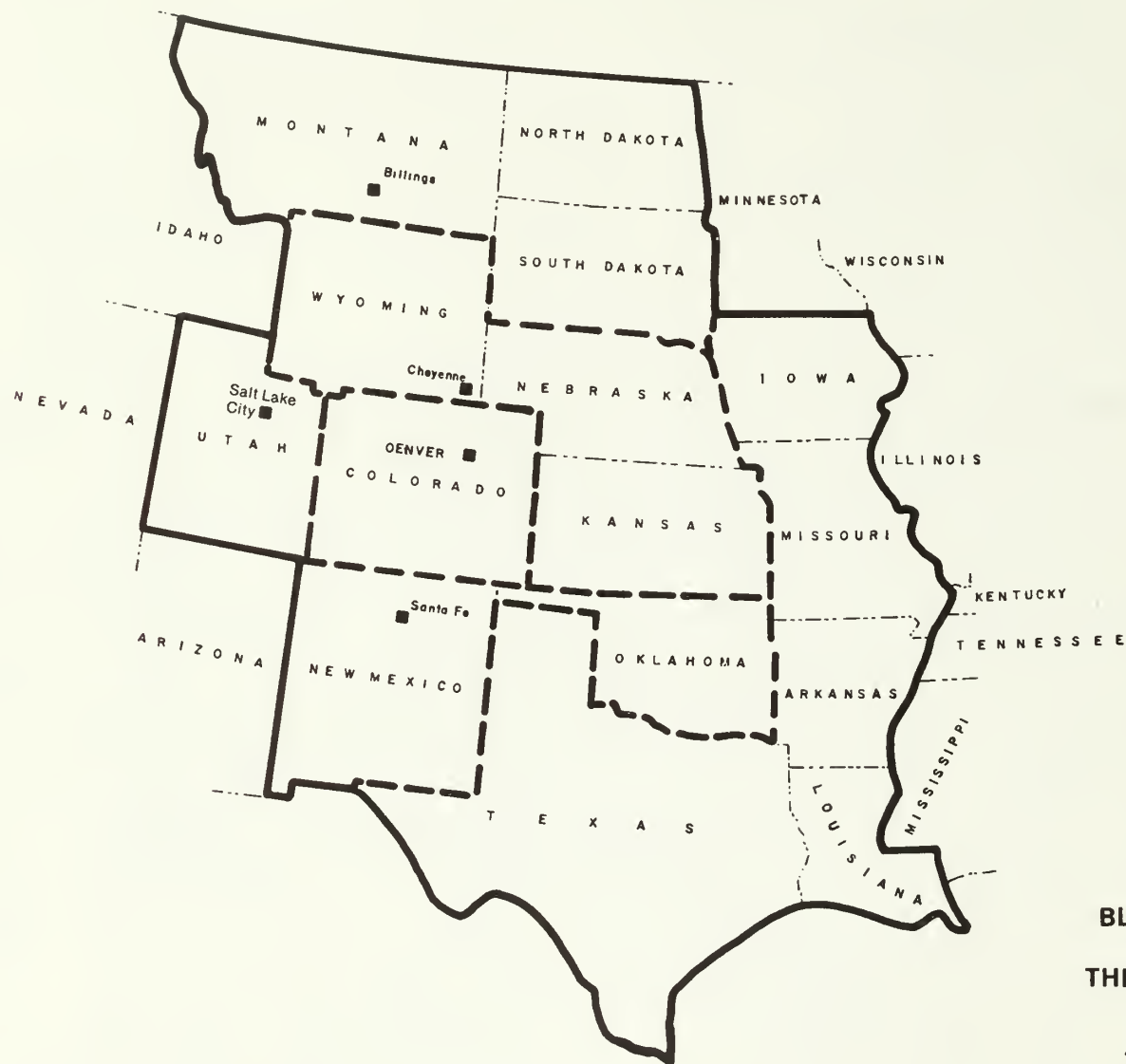
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Denver Service Center

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



BLM STATE OFFICES within THE CENTRAL REGION

- State Office Area Jurisdiction
- State Offices

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE OFFICES**

Colorado

Colorado State Bank Building, Room 700
1600 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80202
303-837-3814

Montana

222 N. 32nd Street
P.O. Box 30157
Billings, Montana 59107
406-657-6461

New Mexico

U.S. Post Office and Federal Building
South Federal Place (P.O. Box 1449)
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
505-988-6204

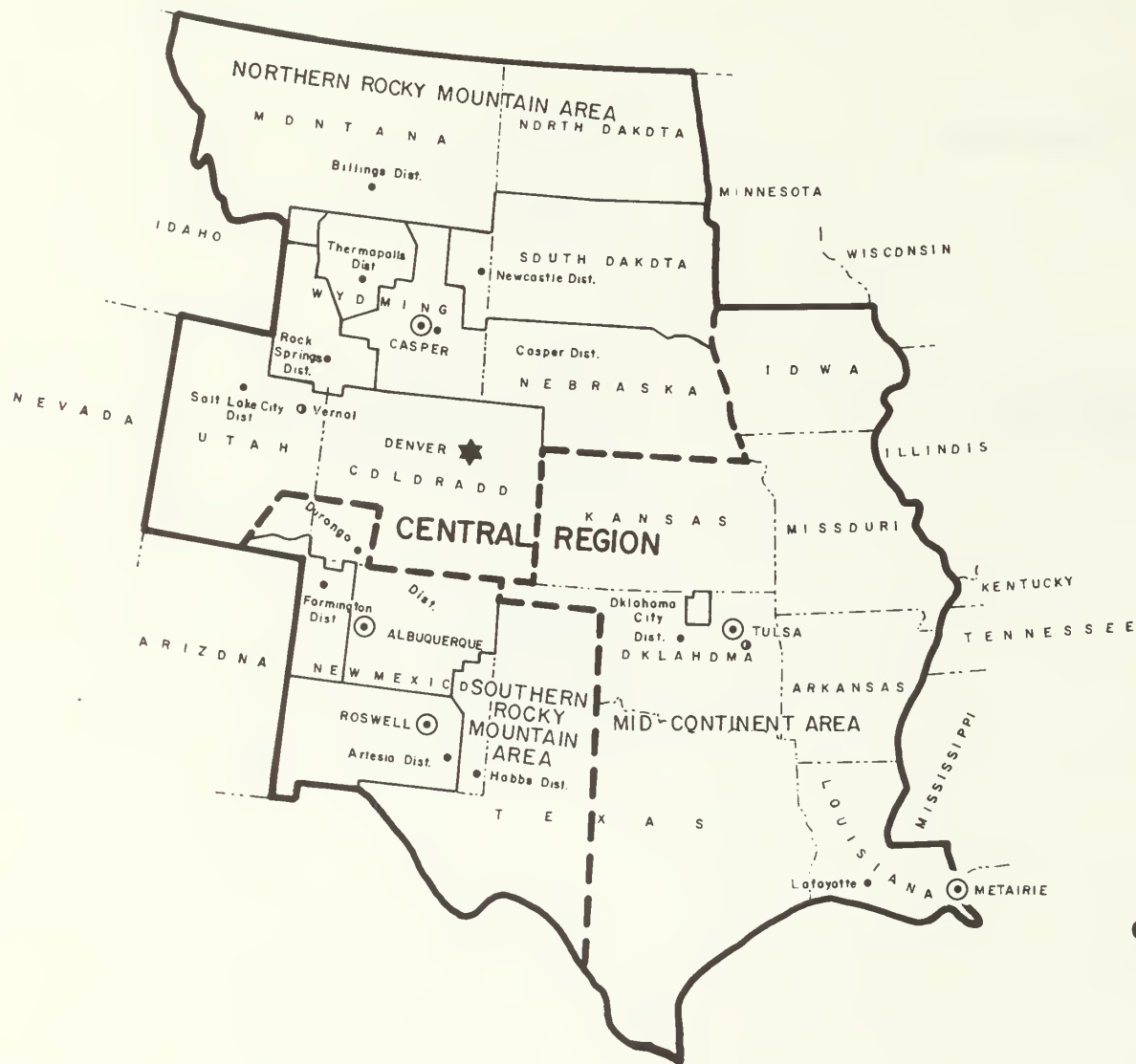
Utah

University Club Building
136 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
801-524-5320

Wyoming

P.O. Box 1828
2515 Warren
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
307-778-2455

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CENTRAL REGION



CENTRAL REGION

OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

- Regional Boundary
- Area Boundaries
- District Boundaries
- Managers Office
- Area Offices
- District Offices

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Central Region Manager
7200 W. Alameda
Lakewood, CO 80226
303-234-2855

Mid-Continent Area(MCA)
Area Supervisor
6136 E. 32nd Place
Tulsa, OK 74135
918-581-7631

District Engineer
Suite 404, 50 Penn Place
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405-231-4806

Northern Rocky Mountain Area(NRMA)
Area Supervisor
P. O. Box 2859
Casper, WY 82602
307-265-5550

District Engineer
P. O. Box 2550
Billings, MT 59103
406-245-6711

District Engineer
P. O. Box 2859
Casper, WY 82602
307-265-5550.

District Engineer
P. O. Box 219
Newcastle, WY 82701
307-746-2737

District Engineer
P. O. Box 1170
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307-362-6422

District Engineer
8426 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138
801-524-5650

District Engineer
P. O. Box 590
Thermopolis, WY 82443
307-864-2156

Southern Rocky Mountain Area(SRMA)
Area Supervisor
505 Marquette N.W., Room 815
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505-766-2841

Assistant Area Supervisor
P. O. Drawer 1857
Roswell, NM 88201
505-622-1332

District Engineer
Drawer U
Artesia, NM 88210
505-746-4841

District Engineer
P. O. Box 1809
Durango, CO 81301
303-247-5144

District Engineer
P. O. Box 959
Farmington, NM 87401
505-325-4572

District Engineer
P. O. Box 1157
Hobbs, NM 88240
505-393-3612

Introduction

The operating requirements of Federal oil and gas leases have been significantly changed due to new and revised legislation [e.g., the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852), Federal Land Policy & Management Act (Public Law 94-579)], recent Executive Orders and revised Department of the Interior regulations.

Secretarial Order No. 2948 of October 6, 1972, sets forth the relative responsibilities of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Geological Survey (GS) with respect to operations on national resource lands and Federal minerals beneath private surface.

Purpose of Brochure

In order to make recipients of Federal leases aware of the conditions and standards under which they are required to operate, the GS issued the "Notice to Lessees (NTL) Number 6, Approval of Operations" effective June 1, 1976. This booklet has been developed to help oil and gas operators fulfill the requirements of NTL-6 and to provide information for use in planning development programs. In each instance where an operator plans the development of a Federal lease, he should be aware of the exploration phases, development and abandonment of the lease area, and the time and procedural requirements of each phase. (See Procedural Guidelines on page 16.)

Maps Are Required

NTL-6 requires operators to obtain approval prior to entry upon the land. Before land entry the operator must submit to the GS and the BLM one copy each of a map outlining anticipated activities.

Filing Plans

After a well location and right-of-way access is staked, an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) and a Multipoint Surface Use and Operations Plan must be filed for approval by the GS District Engineer. The latter must cover all proposed drilling and attendant operations that will disturb the surface. No APD will be approved until an onsite inspection, if required, has been conducted, an environmental analysis prepared, and archeological clearance obtained.

Amendments to Plans

All further development must be contained in amendments to the Multipoint Surface Use and Operations Plan. These amendments must show proposed locations of roads, tank batteries, production facilities, flowlines, and other related facilities. Amendments must be approved by the GS District Engineer. All surface disturbing operations in existing fields require a new or modified Surface Use and Operations Plan. Such plans and amendments will not be approved by the GS District Engineer until there has been an onsite inspection, if required, preparation of an environmental

Abandonment

analysis, and clearance for archeological purposes.

Every site to be abandoned must be rehabilitated. This may consist of seeding, mulching, fertilization, and shaping the land to prevent erosion. Since the conditions of disturbed areas are known at the time of abandonment, additional requirements for rehabilitation may be made at the time a Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells, Notice of Intent to Abandon (NIA) is filed. Any additional requirements will be designed to aid the operator in qualifying for final approval. The GS District Engineer will not approve abandonment until all terms and conditions have been met to the satisfaction of the BLM District Manager. The key to development of an acceptable plan is to incorporate all the necessary operational information, including resource and surface protection measures to be taken during operations, rehabilitation, and abandonment.

Approval of Plan

Early contact with the GS district office will expedite approval of the Multipoint Surface Use and Operations Plan (MSUOP). This contact should be made prior to commitment of dates, equipment, access route acquisition, and planning. A preliminary field examination may be made to review possible serious conflicts with other resource values in an effort to alleviate problems prior to development of the MSUOP. GS and BLM can inform the operator of resource values and surface protection measures that should be taken in an area and included in the Plan. The BLM can also advise the GS and the operator if *no* cultural resource examination is to be required.

Restrictions

Exploration, drilling, or other development activity may be prohibited during certain times of the year. For example, development activity during certain spring months may be curtailed when in close proximity to significant breeding grounds. This applies as well to critical wildlife habitat areas during certain winter months. New operations may be

Other Permits

temporarily prohibited or restricted when the ground is wet and muddy and significant damage could result from use. Buffer areas near streams and recreation areas may be withheld from surface disturbing activities. Such areas can often be identified by the BLM when an operator makes his preliminary contact. An archeological and historical clearance is required prior to approval of any plan.

The lease authorizes the lessee to conduct approved oil and gas operations only on the lease area. A right-of-way permit for off-lease access may be additionally required by BLM. All pipeline, flowlines, and other facilities constructed on the lease by parties other than the lessee also require a right-of-way or temporary use permit. Facilities constructed off the lease area on Federal lands require a right-of-way or temporary use permit.

Standards and Requirements

Every operation authorized under a Federal oil and gas lease should conform to the highest professional standards. Knowledge of the Department of Interior's operational standards, procedures, and environmental protection requirements will help an operator meet these standards. The following guidelines have been developed to help the operator become familiar with these. Operators should become familiar with these guidelines and use them in the preparation of their Multipoint Surface Use and Operations Plan and on-the-ground operations.

1 Geophysical Operations

Geophysical Operator

Geophysical operations are approved by BLM. Good administration and surface protection on geophysical operations can only be accomplished through cooperation of the operator and BLM. The responsibilities of the operator and the BLM District Manager are as follows:

The operator is required to file, in person or by mail, a "Notice of Intent to Conduct Oil and Gas Exploration Operations" for all operations on Federal surface. Forms for this purpose are available in all BLM District Offices. (See Form 3040-1, page 9.) The Notice includes maps showing the location of the line, all access routes, and must be filed in the BLM District Office before operations begin. The map should be a minimum scale of one-half inch equal to one mile.

The operator is required to be bonded. (See Form 3107-3, page 9.) Evidence of satisfactory bonding shall accompany the Notice of Intent.

The operator is required to notify the District Manager before entering onto national resource lands.

The operator is required to obtain the District Manager's prior written approval before commencing any surface disturbing activities such as with bulldozers.

The operator is required to notify the District Manager in writing of any changes in the original Notice and secure written approval for proposed changes before proceeding.

The operator is required to comply with written instructions and orders given by the District Manager at the prework conference (if required) before actual work begins and during field investigations.

The operator is required to notify the District Manager that his operations are completed and that he is leaving the land listed on the Notice.

District Managers —BLM

The operator is required to file a "Notice of Completion of Geophysical Exploration" in person or by mail. Forms for this purpose are available in all BLM offices. (See Form 3045-2, page 10.)

The operator may be required to submit an acceptable archeological survey if dirt work is contemplated.

The District Manager is responsible for the examination of resource values and the development of appropriate surface protection and reclamation measures.

The District Manager is responsible for compliance inspections.

The District Manager is required to check for proper bonding.

The District Manager is required to contact the operator immediately after the "Notice of Intent" is filed and explain the terms of the "Notice of Intent" including: the operating procedures to be followed or avoided, all current laws, and all BLM administrative requirements.

The District Manager is required to complete final inspection after the "Notice of Completion" is filed.

Typical Timetable for Geophysical Operations

Day 1—"Notice of Intent" received by BLM.

Day 3—BLM contacts geophysical operator.

Day 9—Pework conference; appraisal of requirements.

Day 10—If no bulldozer work necessary, work starts. When bulldozer work is contemplated or becomes necessary, development of rehabilitation requirements and further environmental review may be necessary. The operator may be required to furnish an archeological survey which could normally take up to 30 days. When no bulldozer work is necessary, normally 10 days will be required from "Notice of Intent" filing to start of operations.

Day 30—When bulldozer work is necessary, normally 30 days will be required to start of operations.

Form 3040-1
(November 1970)
(Formerly 3107-1)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION OPERATIONS

Name	Address (include zip code)
------	----------------------------

hereby files this "Notice of Intent to Conduct Oil and Gas Exploration Operations" across and upon (give description of lands by township(s) and range)

The type of operation to be pursued is ☐ magnetometer ☐ seismograph ☐ other (specify)

Approximate date of commencement of operations Upon completion of work, the Bureau of Land Management District Manager shall be furnished a "Notice of Completion of Oil and Gas Exploration Operations."

The undersigned agrees that oil and gas exploration operations will be conducted pursuant to the following terms and conditions:

1. Exploration operations shall be conducted in compliance with all Federal, State and County laws, ordinances or regulations which are applicable to the area of operations including, but not limited to, those pertaining to fire, sanitation, conservation, water pollution, fish and game. All operations hereunder shall be conducted in a prudent manner.
2. Due care will be exercised in protecting lands in this notice. All necessary precautions shall be taken to avoid any damage other than normal wear and tear, to gates, bridges, roads, culverts, cattle guards, fences, dams, dykes, vegetative cover and improvements, and stock watering and other facilities.
3. Appropriate procedures shall be taken to protect any shafts, pits or tunnels, and shot holes shall be capped when not in use to protect the liver, safety, or property of other persons or of wildlife and livestock.
4. All vehicles shall be operated at a reasonable rate of speed, and due care must be taken to safeguard all live-

stock and wildlife in the vicinity of his operations. Bulldozers shall not be used without advance notification to the District Manager. Existing roads and trails shall be used wherever possible, if new roads and trails are made, care should be taken to follow natural contours of the lands where feasible and restoration and/or reseeding, as requested by District Manager shall be made.

5. Upon expiration, revocation or abandonment of operations conducted pursuant to this "Notice," all equipment shall be removed from the land and the land shall be restored as nearly as practicable to its original condition by such measures as the District Manager may specify. All geophysical holes must be safely plugged. Upon leaving the land, the District Manager shall be informed.
6. Upon request, the location and depth of water sands encountered shall be disclosed to the District Manager.
7. The party conducting such operations shall contact the District Manager prior to actual entry upon the land in order to be apprised of the practices which should be followed or avoided in the conduct of his operations in order to minimize damages to property of the United States.

(Signature)

(Signature of Geophysical Operator)

(Address including zip code)

(Address including zip code)

GPO 831-988

Form 3107-3
(December 1967)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION BOND
(43 CFR, SUBPART 3107)

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we

of , as principal,
and
of , as surety,

are held and firmly bound unto the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in the sum of dollars (\$), lawful money of the United States, to be paid to the United States, which sum may be increased or decreased by a rider hereto executed in the same manner as this bond, for the use and benefit of (1) the United States; (2) any entryman or patentee or surface owner of, or the holder of any interests in, any lands in which the oil and gas deposits are reserved to the United States and upon which exploration operations will be conducted; and (3) any lessee or permittee under a lease or permit issued or to be issued by the United States for lands on which the oil and gas exploration operations will be conducted. For such payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, and each of our heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, jointly and severally by these presents.

SCHEDULE A

STATE OR STATES

SCHEDULE B

TOWNSHIP(S) AND RANGE(S)	APPROXIMATE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS
--------------------------	--

GPO 840-081

Form 3040-1 Notice of Intent to Conduct Oil and Gas Exploration Operations

Form 3107-3 Bond Form

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION OPERATIONS

Name	Address (include zip code)
------	----------------------------

Pursuant to the notice heretofore filed to conduct oil and gas exploration operations, this is to advise that such operations were completed on _____, on the lands described in the previous notice.

(Signature)	(Geophysical Operator)
(Address including zip code)	(Address including zip code)

BFO 849-919

Form 3045-2 (January 1975) (formerly 3181-2)

Form 3045-2 Notice of Completion of Geophysical Explorations

2 Drilling Operations

Preliminary Environmental Review

Whenever the lessee or operator of a Federal oil and gas lease decides to drill on the leasehold, all proposed drilling operations and related surface disturbance activities must be approved before entry upon the lands involved. Approval will be in accordance with: (1) lease stipulations, (2) Title 30 CFR Part 221, "Oil and Gas Operating Regulations," and (3) "Notice to Lessees No. 6 (NTL-6)" issued by the GS effective June 1, 1976.

NTL-6 provides guidelines to the lessee or operator for planning development programs as follows:

This review is required for all future drilling operations prior to entry on the land. The lessee or operator, upon finalizing plans to drill and prior to actual surveying, must file a map with the GS's District Engineer and the appropriate office of the BLM (or other involved Federal surface management agency). The map may be a topographic (or such other acceptable map) of a scale not less than one inch equals one mile and which shows the preferred location and general topographic features of the area concerned.

If the lessee or operator has not been advised to the contrary within 15 days from the filing of the preliminary map, he may assume there are no objections to entry upon the land for the purpose of required surveying and staking and may proceed accordingly. Unless BLM advises an operator to the contrary he will be required to furnish at his expense a cultural resources inventory for the lands to be disturbed within the proposed area of operations prepared by a qualified cultural resource specialist.

3 Producing Operations

Producing wells in active oil and/or gas fields will periodically require workover operations. Before repairing, deepening, or conditioning a well (i.e., work that will involve change in the original or plugged back depth, casing arrangement, and/or present producing interval(s) including separation or commingling), the lessee or operator must submit a request to the GS District Engineer for approval to perform the required workover operations before the work is started. Required components of the request are outlined as follows:

Submit a report on Form 9-331, "Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells" or Form 9-331C, "Application for Permit to Drill, Deepen, or Plug Back," as applicable. Enter on the appropriate form a detailed written statement of the plan of work. A proposed change in any such plan of work must also receive the prior approval of the District Engineer. Routine well work such as pump rods, tubing, and surface production equipment repairs will not require submittal of Form 9-331 unless specifically requested by the District Engineer.

Form 9-331
(May 1963)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STAMIT IN TRIPPLICATE*
(Other instructions on re-
verse side)

Form approved
Budget Bureau No. 42-B1624
1. LEASE DESIGNATION AND SERIAL NO.

SUNDRY NOTICES AND REPORTS ON WELLS

(Do not use this form for proposals to drill on to deeper or plug back to a different reservoir.
Use "APPLICATION FOR PERMIT" for such proposals.)

1. OIL WELL <input type="checkbox"/> GAS WELL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>	2. NAME OF OPERATOR	3. ADDRESS OF OPERATOR	4. LOCATION OF WELL (Report location clearly and in accordance with any State requirements. See also space 17 below.) At surface	5. PERMIT NO.	6. ELEVATIONS (Show whether of, ft., or, etc.)	7. IF INDIAN, ALLOTTEE OR TRIBE NAME	8. UNIT AGREEMENT NAME	9. FARM OR LEASE NAME	10. WELL NO.	11. FIELD AND POOL, OR WILDCAT	12. SEC. T. R. M. OR SLS AND SECTION OR AREA	13. COUNTY OR PARISH	14. STATE
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15. Check Appropriate Box To Indicate Nature of Notice, Report, or Other Data

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO:		SUBSEQUENT REPORT OF:	
TEST WATER SHUT-OFF	<input type="checkbox"/>	WATER SHUT-OFF	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRACURE TEST	<input type="checkbox"/>	FRACURE TREATMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHOOT OR ACIDISE	<input type="checkbox"/>	ABANDONING OR ACIDISING	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEPAIR WELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Other)	<input type="checkbox"/>
PULL OR ALTER CASING	<input type="checkbox"/>	REPAIRING WELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
MULTIPLE COMPLETE	<input type="checkbox"/>	ALTERING CASING	<input type="checkbox"/>
ABANDON	<input type="checkbox"/>	ABANDONMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHANGE PLANS	<input type="checkbox"/>		

(Note: Report results of multiple completion on Well Completion or Recompletion Report and Log form.)

17. ONE-SIDE PROPOSED OR COMPLETED OPERATIONS (Clearly state all pertinent details, and give pertinent dates, including estimated date of starting any proposed work. If well is directionally drilled, give subsurface locations and measured and true vertical depths for all markers and notes pertinent to this work.)

18. I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct

SIGNED	TITLE	DATE
(This space for Federal or State office use)		
APPROVED BY	TITLE	DATE
CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL, IF ANY.		

*See Instructions on Reverse Side

A plan for proposed surface disturbance activities must accompany the above mentioned Forms 9-331 or 9-331C. When additional surface disturbance will result, describe any subsequent new construction, reconstruction, or alteration of existing facilities, including roads, dams, pits, flowlines and pipe-lines, tank batteries, or other production facilities on any lease. Sufficient information must be submitted to permit a proper evaluation of the proposed surface disturbing activities as well as any planned accommodations necessary to lessen potential adverse environmental affects. Emergency repairs may be conducted without prior approval provided that the District Engineer is promptly notified.

Well workover operations which have the potential for significant surface disturbance will require an environmental analysis procedure (see Chapter 2, "Drilling Operations"). All Multi-point Surface Use and Operations Plans require an environmental analysis prior to approval. A cultural resources examination may be required prior to approval of a Multi-point Surface Use and Operations Plan.

Environmental Analysis Requirements

4 Abandonment

Prior Approval

Well abandonment operations may not be started without prior approval of the GS District Engineer of the "Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells," Form 9-331. In the case of newly drilled dry holes, failures, and in emergency situations, oral approval may be obtained from the District Engineer subject to written confirmation by application. In such cases, the surface reclamation requirements will have been discussed with the operator and stipulated in the approved APD. Additional surface rehabilitation measures may be required.

Inspection

For existing wells not having an approved surface use plan, a sketch of the disturbed area and roads to be abandoned combined with rehabilitation plans must be submitted with the Notice of Intention to Abandon. Rehabilitation requirements will be made a part of the GS's approval of abandonment. Upon completion of abandonment and rehabilitation operations, the lessee or operator should notify the District Engineer that the location is ready for inspection. This is usually done with an additional Sundry Notice (Form 9-331). Final abandonment will not be approved until the surface rehabilitation work required by the drilling permit or abandonment notice has been completed and the required vegetation is established to the satisfaction of BLM.

Water Well Conversion

The complete abandonment of a well which has encountered usable fresh water will not be approved if BLM wishes to acquire the well. The lessee or operator will be reimbursed for any expenses incurred solely because the well is to be completed as a water well.

Procedural Guidelines

The seven steps of procedure, indicating responsibilities and normal time periods are shown on pages 16 and 17.

Procedural Guidelines

Operator Action	STEP I	STEP II	STEP III
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develops preliminary map and submits to GS and Bureau of Land Management. 2. Identifies necessary off lease right-of-way. 3. Attends joint field examination if requested by Interior. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operator surveys well location and centerline of access roads. 2. Identifies necessary off lease rights-of-way. 3. Arranges for archeological clearance work. 4. Develops Multi-point Surface Use & Operations Plan. Prepares Application for Permit to Drill. 5. Acquires private surface owner agreement if appropriate. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operator files APD, Multi-point Surface Use & Operations Plan, Private Surface Owner Agreement and archeological clearance. 2. Applies for necessary rights-of-way to Bureau of Land Management. 3. Attends joint field examination if requested by GS.
Department of Interior Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performs preliminary environmental review. 2. Reviews for other authorizations necessary. 3. Notifies operator if site conflicts with other resource values. Notifies operator if no archeological survey is required. 4. Requests joint field examination if necessary. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviews APD and Surface Use & Operation Plan. 2. Reviews archeological survey. 3. Requests joint field examination, if appropriate. 4. Requests revision of plan if unacceptable. 5. Prepares necessary environmental analysis for APD and other Federal actions required. 6. Prepares conditions of approval to APD and Multi-point Surface Use & Operations Plan. 7. APD approved or rejected. 8. Appropriate rights-of-way issued.
Field Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operator reviews on-the-ground site. 2. Joint field inspection, if necessary. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey and stake well site and other facilities, includes centerline staking of roads. 2. Archeological survey performed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint field examination performed.
Normal Time Period	1. 15 days after receipt.	1. Variable; contingent upon operator schedules and availability of archeologist.	1. 30 days.

STEP IV

1. Performs in accordance with approval plan.
2. Files necessary reports to Geological Survey.

STEP V

1. Operator files Notice of Completion if well is a producer, plus modification to the Multi-point Surface Use and Operations Plan. Operator may need to arrange for additional archeological survey on areas affected by plan modifications.
2. Operator files Notice of Intent to Abandon if well is dry hole. This can also be for a producer that has gone dry.

STEP VI

1. Operator files Sundry Reports on a Well. Subsequent Report of Abandonment states all work is completed and ready for inspection.

STEP VII

1. Applies for release of the period of bond liability.

1. Compliance inspections.

1. Reviews on-the-ground conditions for compliance and rehabilitation needs.
2. Reviews modifications to the Multi-point Surface Use & Operations Plan.
3. Requests joint field examination, if appropriate.
4. Requests revision of plan if unacceptable.
5. Prepares necessary environmental analysis for the plan and reviews archeological survey.
6. Prepares conditions of approval to modified plan.
7. Plan approved or rejected.
8. Additional requirements for rehabilitation of disturbed areas developed for conditions of Intent to Abandon.

1. Performs compliance checks to see that all conditions are met.
2. Approves final abandonment.

1. Performs final check, if necessary.
2. Approves release of the bond liability.

1. Operator stakes well site exterior dimensions.
2. Operator begins construction and/or drilling activities.
3. Interior conducts compliance inspections.

1. Joint field examination if necessary.
2. Field work performed to develop well and necessary support according to approved plan.
3. Field work performed to abandon well if this is the action.
4. Rehabilitation work begins on disturbed areas.

1. All work completed and ready for inspection.

1. Possible field inspection by Bureau of Land Management.

1. Variable.

1. Review of plan, 30 days.
2. Rehabilitation work, one year.

1. Variable; one-two years for vegetation establishment.

1. 30 days.

5 Agreement for Rehabilitation of Privately-Owned Surface

Where the surface is privately owned, each APD or application to conduct other surface disturbance activities shall contain information concerning the private surface owner's rehabilitation requirements. An agreement with every surface owner crossed by a new access road is necessary for that portion of the road from public access to the well site.

Rehabilitation Requirements

A written agreement between the lessee or operator and the surface owner is not necessary if the operator furnishes a letter to GS's District Engineer setting forth the surface owner's rehabilitation requirements. If written proof of prior arrangements has been provided, BLM will recommend surface rehabilitation requirements to the District Engineer giving full consideration to the preferences of the landowner.

In those cases where it is impossible or impractical to obtain the private surface owner's rehabilitation requirements, a letter from the lessee or operator describing the situation will be acceptable. Payment of damages in lieu of full restoration will not be an acceptable substitute for a normal cleanup and rehabilitation program.

Compliance

If the private surface owner stipulates no rehabilitation requirements or if information concerning such arrangements is not furnished, the GS District Engineer will request from BLM the recommendations regarding necessary surface restoration requirements. In such cases, the lessee or operator will be expected to comply with these rehabilitation requirements. This is subject to any subsequent and reasonable requests by the surface owner that pits, roads, and other facilities be left intact.

6 Surface Use Standards

General All operations should be conducted so as not to cause pollution or change the character of streams, lakes, ponds, waterholes, seeps, or marshes. This relates directly to damages caused to fish and wildlife resources. Surface disturbance that causes active soil movement should be corrected.

The operator should take the necessary measures to avoid or minimize cultural, vegetation, or soil disturbance.

Roads Detailed technical guidance for road location and construction is available in all BLM District Offices. Minimum standards for temporary and permanent roads have been adopted by some states.

Construction

Existing roads should be used whenever possible for access. Existing roads vary from graded and drained to primitive roads with no blading or drainage structures installed. If existing roads do not provide adequate access in areas of smooth rolling grassland and low shrubs, travel on designated unbladed routes is preferred.

If construction of a new road is necessary, the initial access road to an exploratory well site can be constructed as a temporary road. Plans should be developed toward its eventual closure and total rehabilitation. Most of these roads will eventually be abandoned and usually have little residual value for future access.

Construction on steep hillsides and near watercourses should be avoided where alternate routes provide adequate access. Ridge tops offer the best winter access. Unnecessary disturbance of drainages and high erosion hazard areas should be avoided.



(1A) Trail, lightly bladed.



(1B) Lightly bladed trail restored.

Drainages should not be plugged by roadbeds. Drainage crossings should be constructed so as not to cause siltation or accumulation of debris. (See Figures 1, 2, and 3.)

All drainage structures must meet BLM standards for temporary and permanent roads.



(2) Improperly installed culvert.

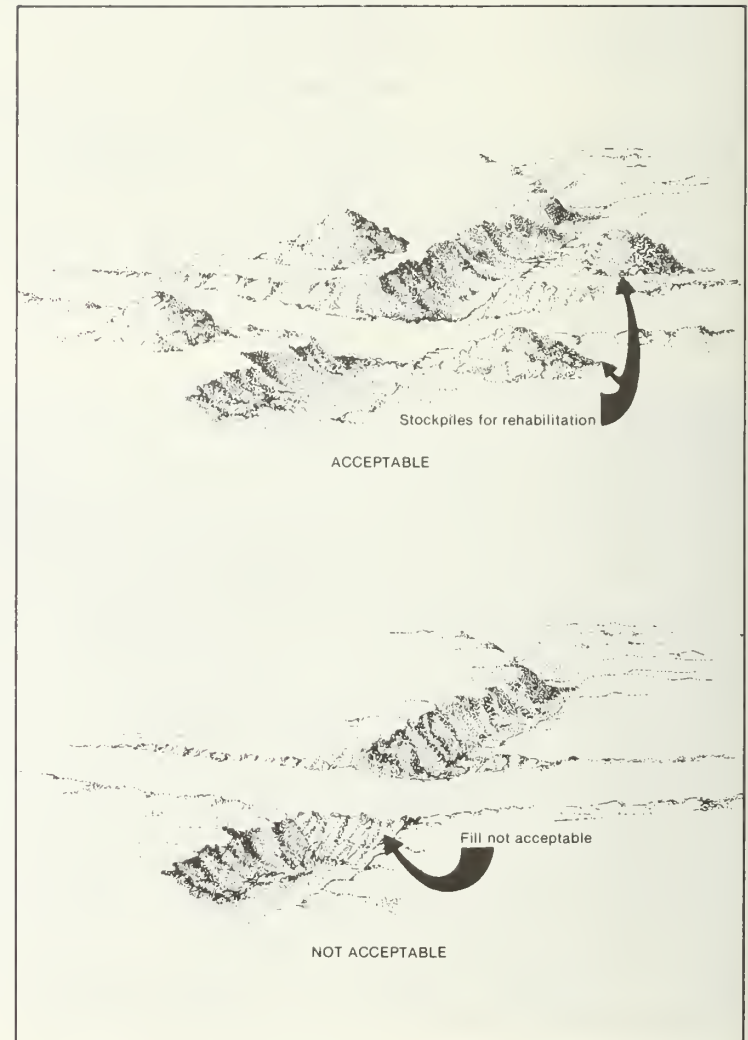
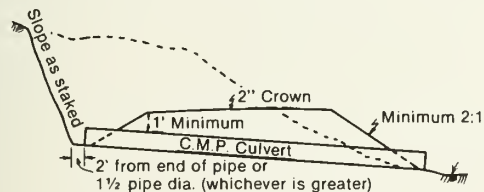
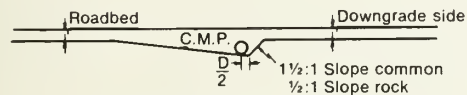


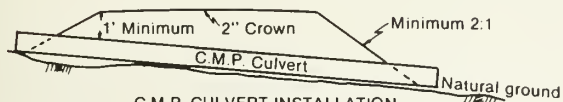
Figure 1. Typical Dry Creek Drainage Crossing



C.M.P. CULVERT INSTALLATION



DITCH CONSTRUCTION AT SIDE HILL
C.M.P. CULVERT INSTALLATION



C.M.P. CULVERT INSTALLATION
EMBANKMENT SECTION

General Notes:

1. In bedding of C.M.P. Culverts, if the foundation is rock, excavate to depth of 8 in. below culvert grade and replace with earth cushion.
2. Minimum cover over culvert is one foot (1').
3. Minimum culvert diameter 18".
4. Minimum culvert spacing:
 - (a) 1- 2% grade — 1000 feet minimum
 - (b) 2- 4% grade — 800 feet minimum
 - (c) 4- 6% grade — 600 feet minimum
 - (d) 6- 8% grade — 400 feet minimum
 - (e) 8-10% grade — 250 feet minimum
5. Maximum grade 10%.

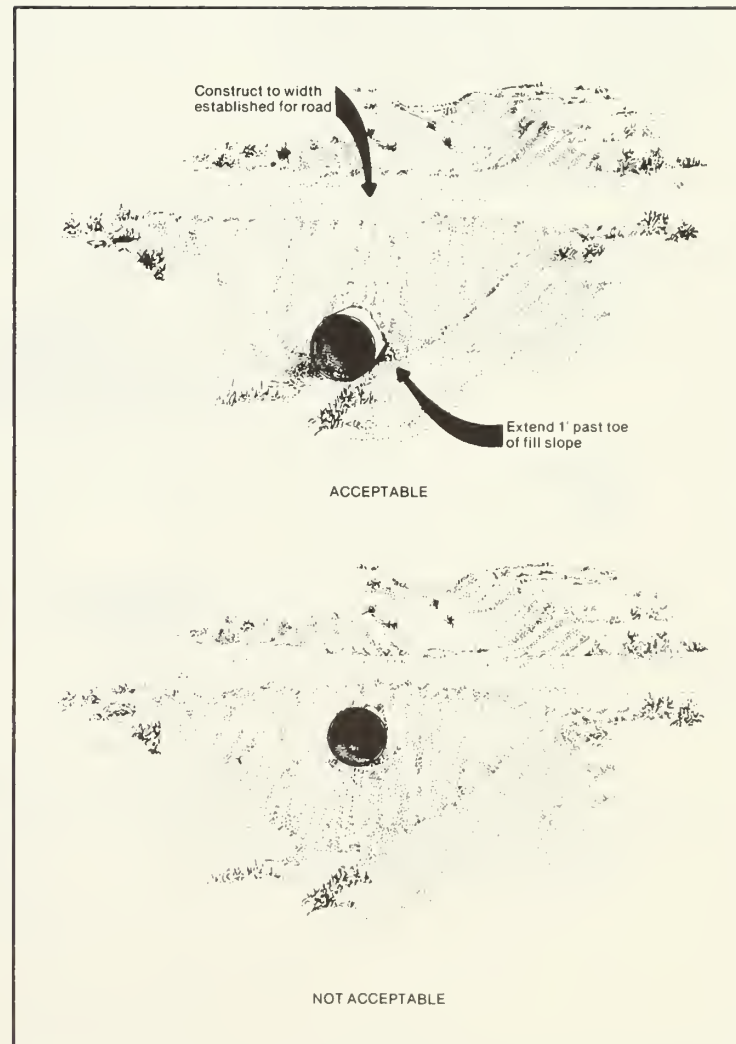
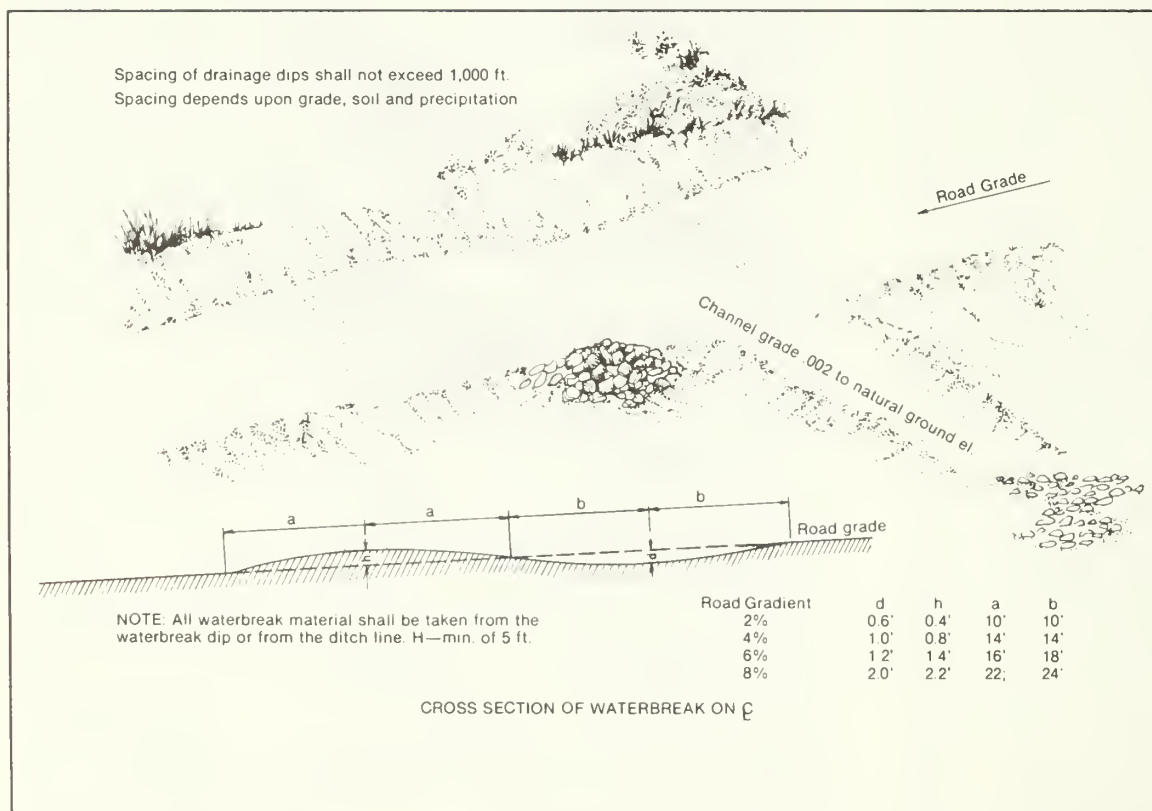


Figure 2. Typical Culvert Installation

Figure 3. Typical Culvert Installation



Long, slight to moderate road grades should contain “thank-u-mams.” They may be installed after temporary road-beds have been constructed or during construction of permanent roads (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. Thank “U” Mam for Slight to Moderate Slopes for Access Roads

Temporary Roads

Temporary roads should be planned for only the minimum width needed for exploration. They should be kept approximately 16 feet wide to prevent unnecessary disturbance (see Figure 5).

Cuts and fills on temporary roads should be made only where necessary. Cut slopes should be no steeper than 3:1 and fill slopes no steeper than 2:1. Surface soil materials should be wind-rows and stockpiled when construction is necessary. If surface soil material is expected to be stockpiled for more than one year, the stockpile should be seeded or otherwise protected from wind and water erosion. The stockpile should be marked or segregated to avoid loss or mixing with other subsurface materials.

Low water crossings are usually preferred in temporary roads (see Figure 1).

Care should be used to avoid unnecessary damage to vegetation.

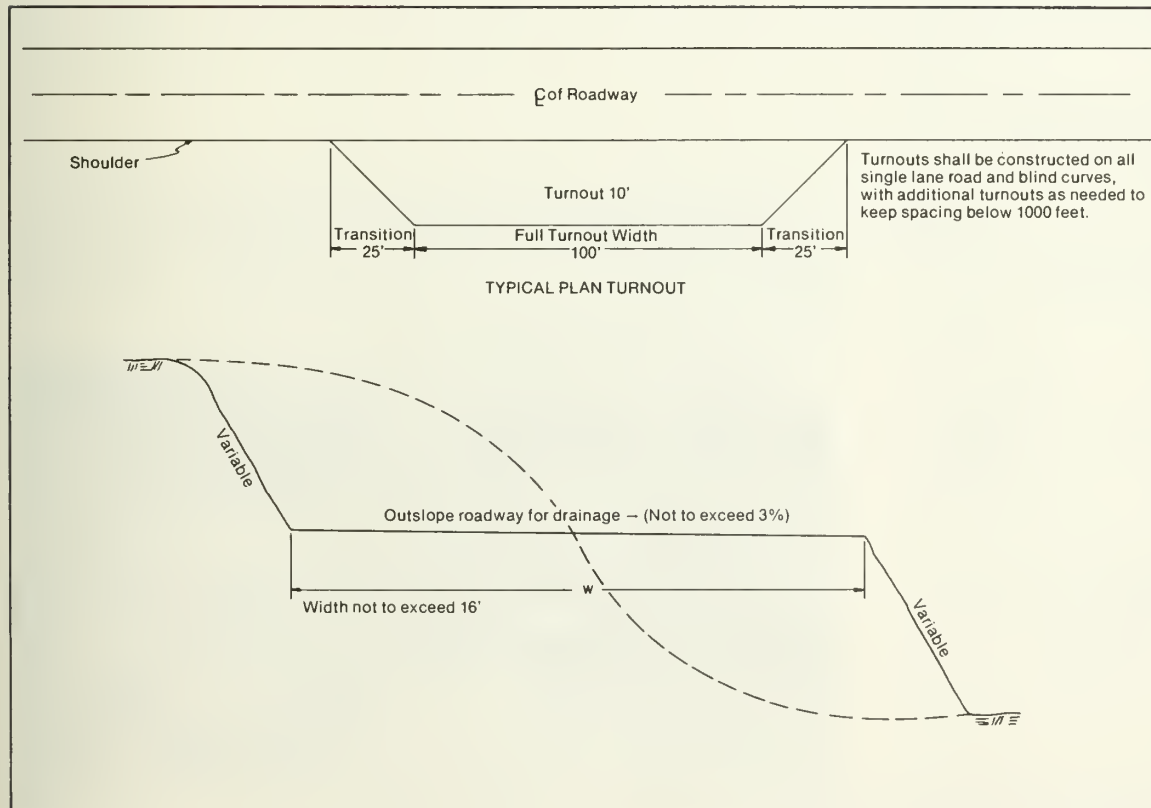


Figure 5. Typical Temporary Service Road

Permanent Roads

Access roads should be limited to one main route to serve the lease area, with one maintained road to each well.

Permanent road designs must meet the specifications of BLM (see Figure 6). Upgrading of temporary roads may include, but not be limited to, ditching, draining, installation of culverts, gravelling, crowning or capping of the roadbed (see Figures 2, 3, and 7).

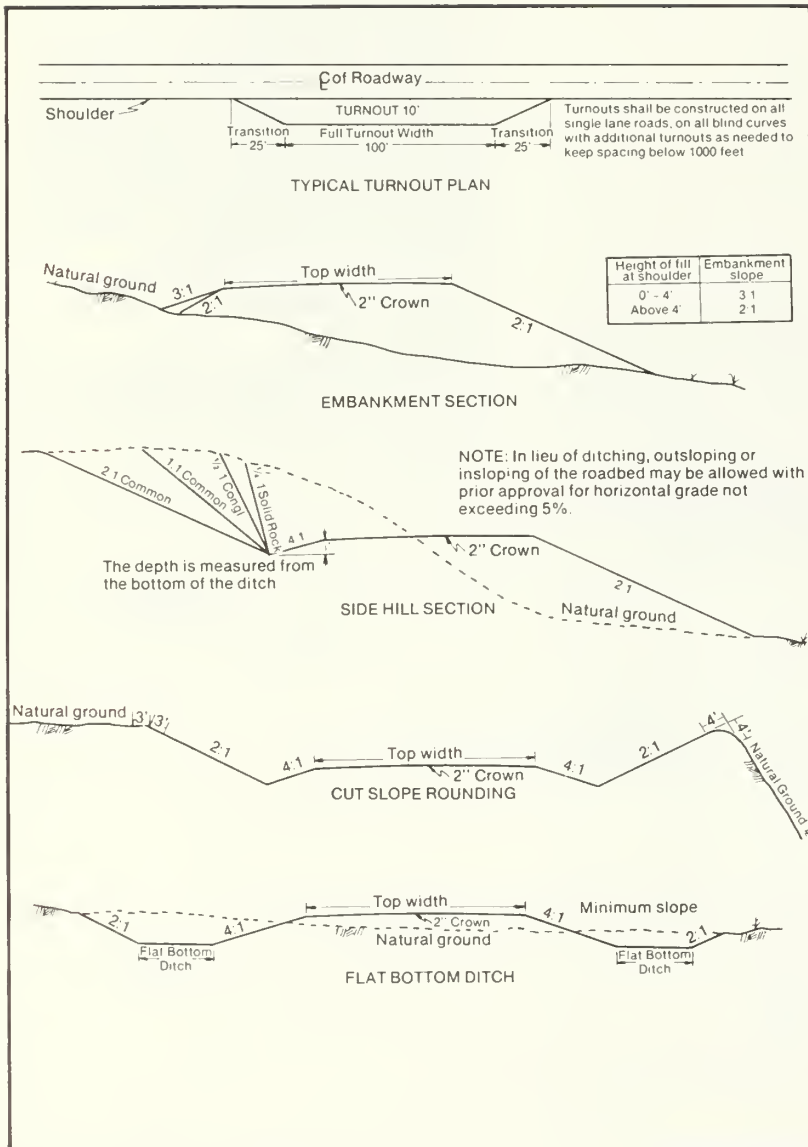


Figure 6. Typical Road Section



(3) Don't place a culvert where a low water crossing will work better.

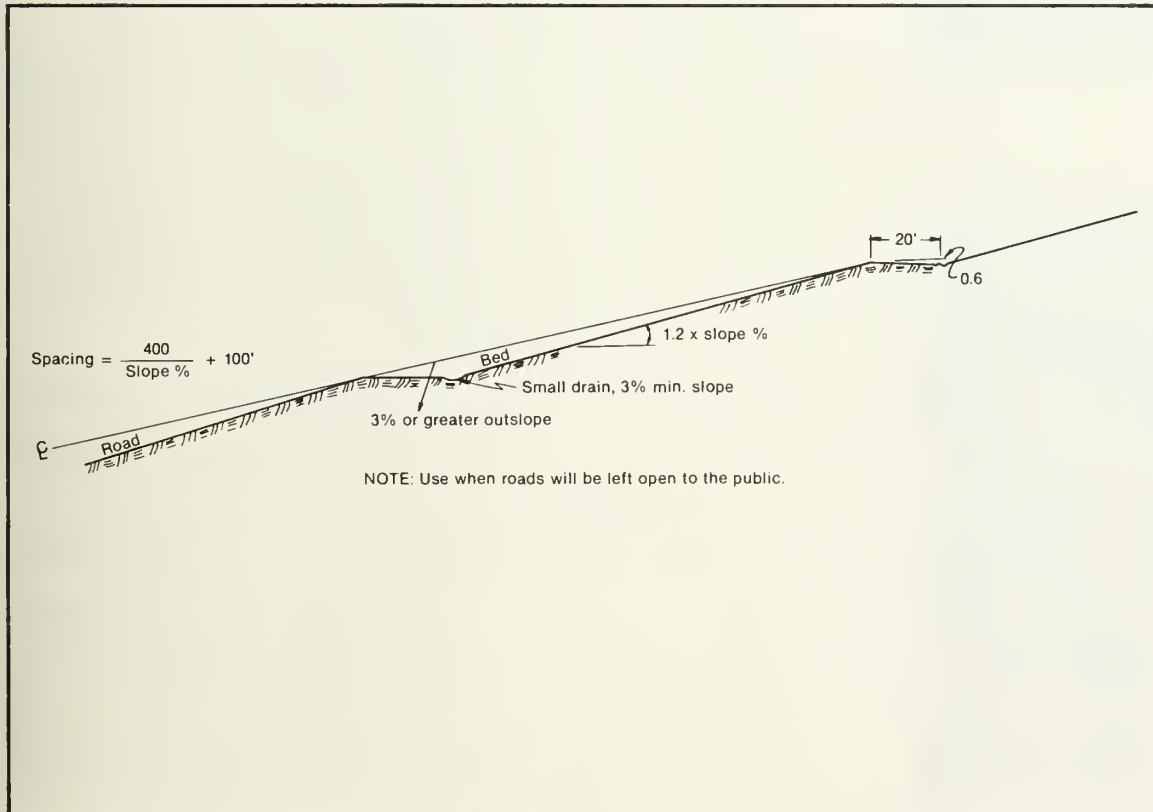


Figure 7. Broad-Based Drainage Dip
Use for Permanent Roads Where Gradient Does Not Exceed 6%



(4) Properly installed cement slab.

Roads should take advantage of existing and foreseeable routes.

Clearing of trees and shrubs should be kept to a minimum and provisions made in the plan for disposal of the material.

Permanent service roads should be constructed and maintained in good condition. Adequate water drainage should be provided to minimize erosion. Erosion of drainage ditches should be prevented by diverting water at frequent intervals.

Surface soil material should be stockpiled during upgrading or construction and redistributed.

Construction of roads to grades steeper than eight percent should be avoided.

Maintenance

Where siltation or accumulation of debris occur in a drainage, the crossing should be reworked (see Figure 1).

The operator should regularly maintain all roads used for access to the lease operation. A maintenance plan may be required. A regular maintenance program may include, but not be limited to, upgrading of existing roads, blading, ditching, culvert, drainage installation, and gravelling or capping of the roadbed.

Abandonment and Rehabilitation

When a road is to be abandoned, rehabilitation may consist of scarifying, waterbarring and barricading. Cut slopes should be reduced to as gentle a grade as the topography permits. Stockpiled soil, debris, and fill materials should be replaced on the roadbed and cut slopes so as to conform to the topography. All disturbed areas should be revegetated where practical (see Figures 8 and 9).

Waterbars should be constructed and rehabilitation practices should be the same as those explained above.



(5A) Example of a rehabilitated road.



(5B) Completed reclamation of roadbed with cut and fill slopes reduced, stockpiled soil material replaced, and roadbed waterbarraged and seeded.

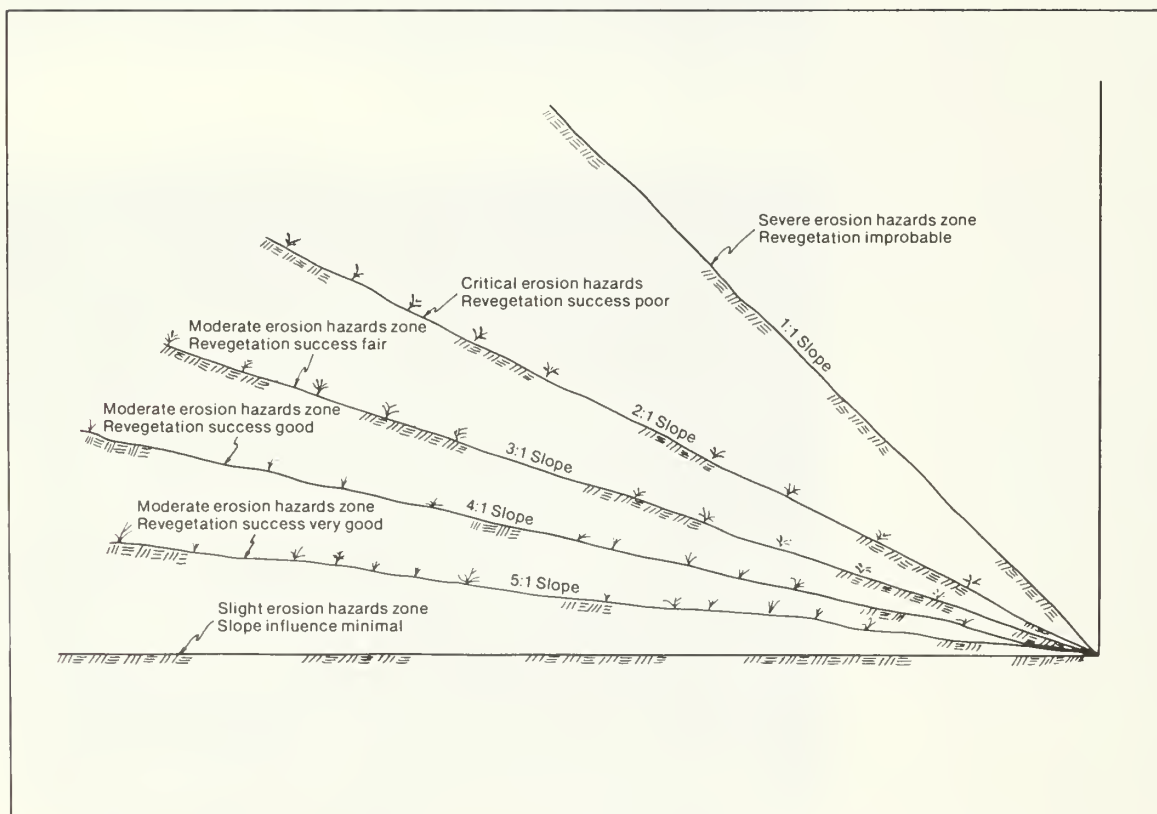


Figure 8. Influence of Percent Slope on Revegetation

Pipelines and Flowlines Construction

Steep hillsides and watercourses should be avoided in the location of pipelines and flowlines. Flowline routes should take advantage of road locations to minimize surface disturbance.

Blading of pipeline routes located on gentle topography need only to have brush and surface irregularities removed and smoothed leaving most of the understory vegetation undisturbed. Graders are recommended for clearing these routes because blade depths can be more easily controlled.

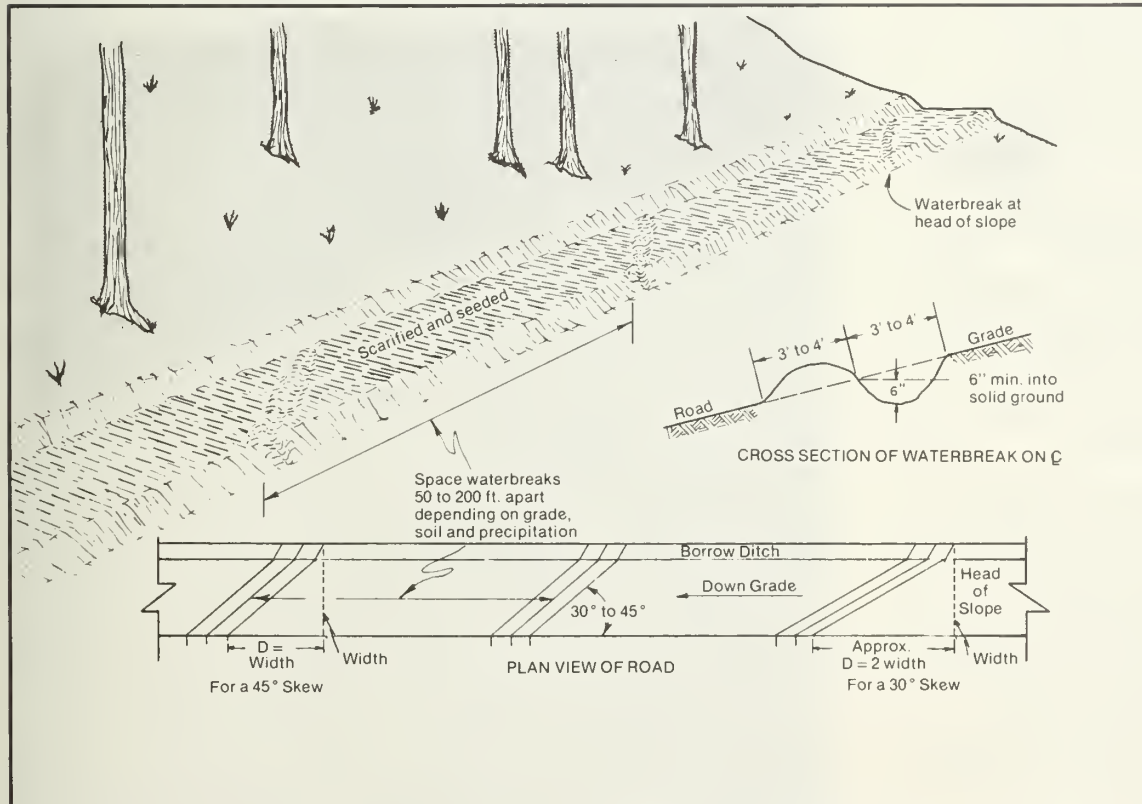


Figure 9. Waterbreak Construction
For access roads and disturbed slopes that will be closed to traffic after operator use.

Cuts and fills on pipelines should be made only where necessary. Cut and fill slopes should normally be no steeper than 3:1 and graded to conform to the adjacent terrain.

Pipeline routes should be graded to conform to the adjacent terrain, waterbarred, and reseeded.

When clearing is necessary, the width disturbed should be kept to a minimum. Bladed materials should be placed back into the cleared route upon completion of construction.

Pipeline construction should not block, dam, or change the natural course of any drainage. Suspended pipelines should provide adequate clearance for runoff.

Surface soil material should be stockpiled to the side of the routes where cuts and fills or other surface disturbance occur during pipeline construction. Surface soil material should be segregated and should not be mixed or covered with subsurface material.

Maintenance

Pipeline routes shall not be used for roads unless properly constructed and authorized for such purposes.

Pipeline trenches should be compacted during backfilling. These trenches should be maintained in order to correct settlement and prevent erosion.

Waterbars and other erosion control devices should be repaired as necessary.

Pumping stations should be kept in a neat and well-maintained condition.

Abandonment and Rehabilitation

Reclamation and abandonment of pipelines and flowlines may involve: replacing fill in the original cuts, reducing and grading cut and fill slopes to conform to the adjacent terrain, replacement of surface soil material, waterbarring, and revegetating in accordance with rehabilitation practices contained under "Abandonment and Rehabilitation," page 27.

Waterbar construction and rehabilitation practices should be the same as those explained under "Abandonment and Rehabilitation," page 27.



(6) Example of pipeline needing maintenance.

Selecting Locations for Well Sites, etc.

In planning for *well sites, tank batteries, sump, reserve and mud pits and pumping stations*, the operator should select locations that involve the least disruption to scenic values and other surface resources. He should employ construction techniques and design practices, including selection of material, camouflage techniques, and rehabilitation practices that will preserve scenic and aesthetic qualities. The following guidelines can be used by operators to assist in minimizing surface disturbance and as an aid in the maintenance of the best possible conditions for rehabilitation.

Construction

Avoid steep hillsides. Locate the site on the most nearly level location obtainable that will accommodate the intended use.

View the site location as to how it will affect the road location. What may be gained on a good location may be lost from an adverse access route.

Adjust the site layout to conform to the best topographic situation. Deep vertical cuts and steep long fill slopes should be avoided. All cut and fill slopes should be constructed to the least percent slope practical.

Avoid excessive disturbance of drainage bottoms and locate reserve pits away from watercourse.

Surface water should be prevented from accumulating on such sites so as not to cause excessive erosion. Runoff water can be controlled by installing waterbars, terraces, or diversion ditches on the uphill sides of facilities (see Figures 10 and 11).

Excavations used for the permanent impoundment of usable water should be graded to establish safe access for humans, livestock, and wildlife.

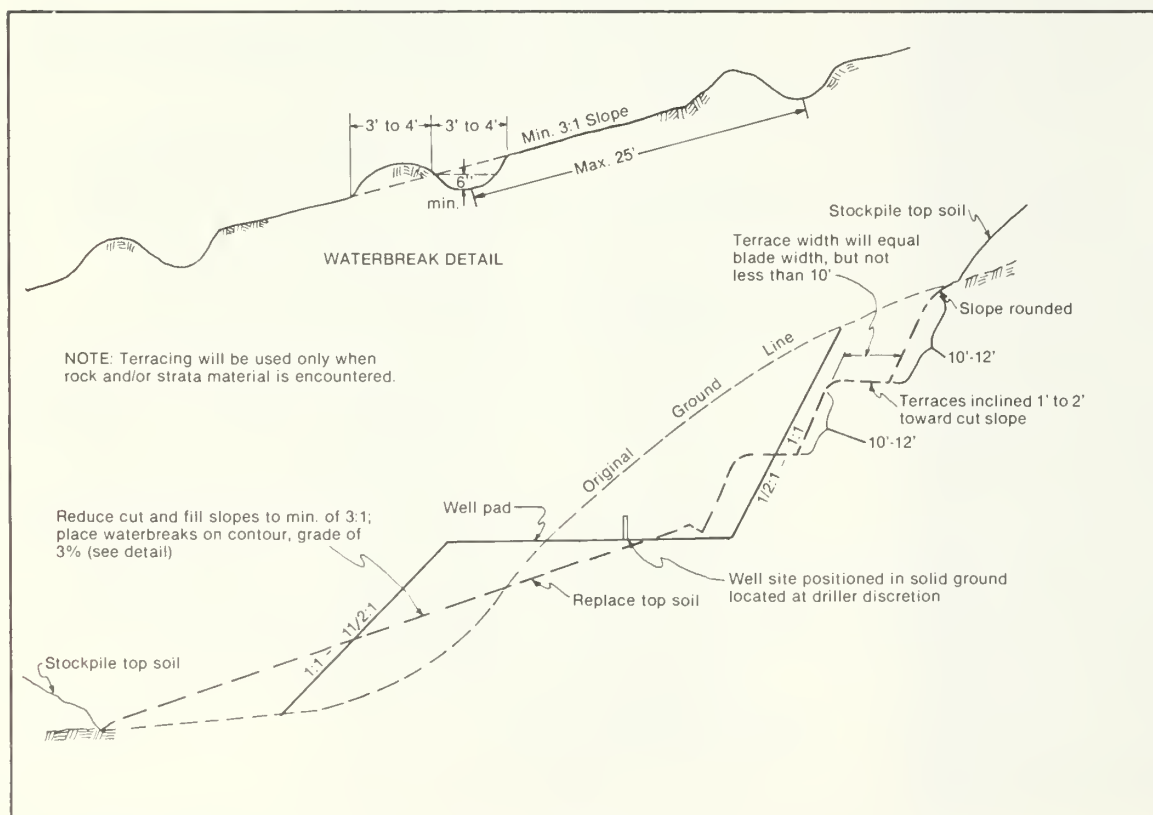


Figure 10. Well Site Restoration and Stabilization by Terracing Cut Slopes

Abandonment and Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation should be planned on the sites of both producing and abandoned wells. The entire site or portion thereof not required for the continued operation of the well should be restored as nearly as practical to its original condition. Final grading of backfilled and cut slopes should be done to prevent erosion and encourage establishment of vegetation (see Figures 8, 10, and 11).

Cut and fill slopes should be reduced and graded to conform the site to the adjacent terrain. The disturbed sites should be prepared to provide a seedbed for reestablishment of desirable vegetation and reshaped to blend with the natural contour. Such practices may include contouring, terracing, gouging, scarifying, mulching, fertilizing, seeding, and planting.

All excavations, pits, or drill holes should be closed by backfilling and made to conform to the surrounding terrain. Waterbars and terracing may be necessary to prevent erosion of fill material.

Rehabilitation practices should be the same as those explained in "Abandonment and Rehabilitation" section, page 27.

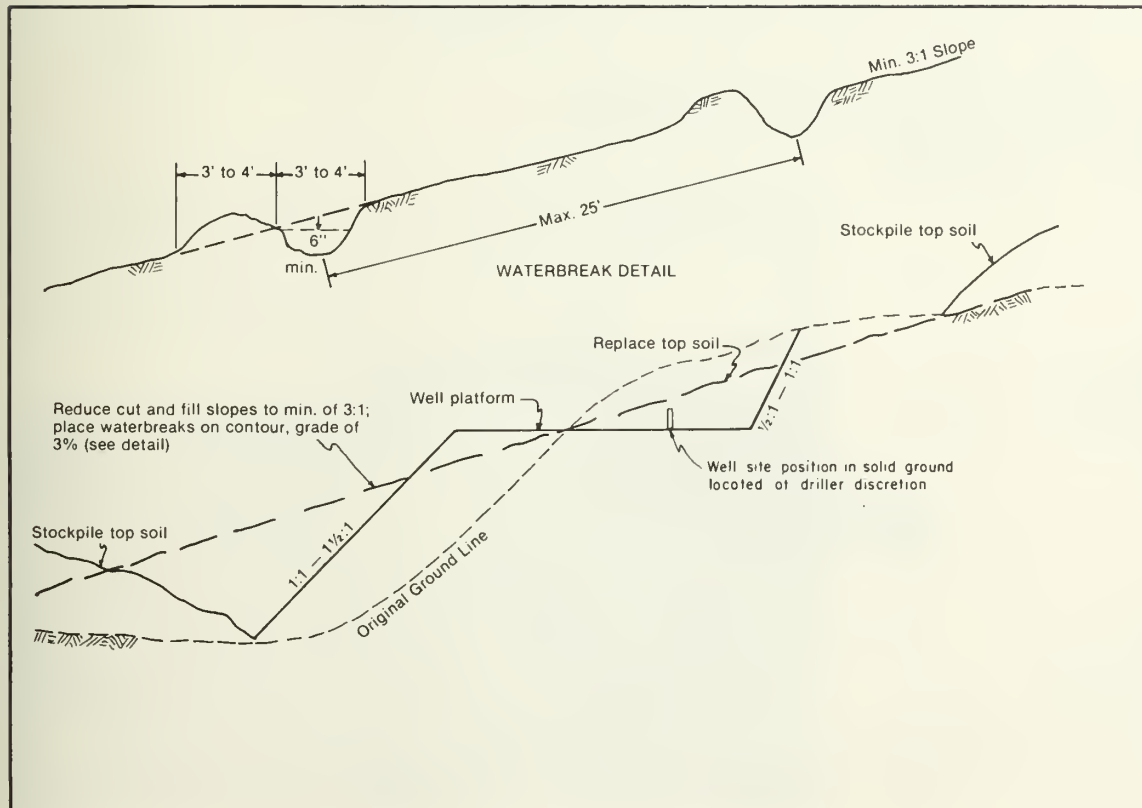


Figure 11. Well Site Restoration and Stabilization by Slope Reduction

Other Guidelines

Surface buildings, supporting facilities, and other structures which are not required for present or future operations should be removed upon termination of use.

All improvements, including fences, gates, cattleguards (see Figure 12), roads, trails, pipelines, bridges, water developments, and control structures will be maintained in a serviceable and safe condition.

Fires Proper precautions should be taken at all times to prevent or suppress fires. Range or forest fires should be reported to the BLM District Office. All other fires or explosions which cause damage to property, equipment, loss of oil or gas, or result in injuries to personnel, should be reported to the GS District

Engineer. GS's reporting procedure is explained in "Notice to Lessees (NTL-3), Undesirable Events."

All survey monuments, witness corners, reference monuments, and bearing trees should be protected against destruction, obliteration, or damage. Any markers so affected must be reestablished at the lessee's expense in accordance with accepted BLM survey practices as set forth in the "Manual of Surveying Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States."

All garbage, debris, and foreign matter should be removed to an established and recognized sanitary landfill or other recognized facility. Roads and campsites should be kept clean. Onsite disposal may be approved.

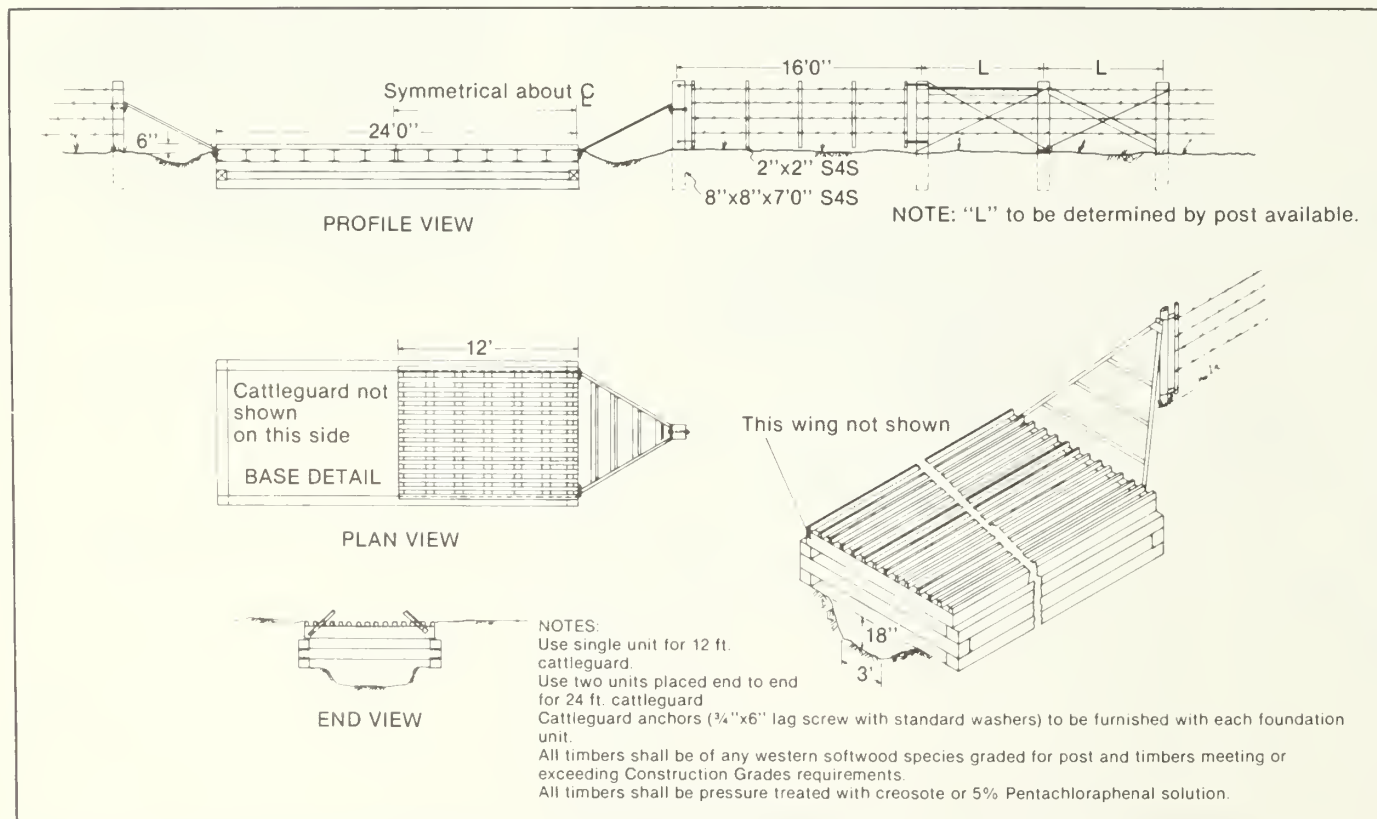


Figure 12. Typical Wood Base Cattleguard

Cultural Resources

Historical, paleontological, and archeological resources should be protected from disturbance by the lessee, his employees, contractors, subcontractors, and their respective employees. Detailed technical guidance for cultural and paleontological resources is available in all BLM District Offices. Upon discovery of any evidence of antiquities, operations should immediately cease and the BLM District Manager and the GS District Engineer notified.

If it is necessary to remove timber from Federal lands administered by BLM, all merchantable timber must be purchased by the operator prior to cutting, at the appraised price determined by the BLM District Manager.

Permit to Burn

Burning of solid or liquid wastes usually requires a burning permit. The permit must be obtained from the State's air quality agency.

Release of Water

Any release of production water on or across national resource lands will need approval by the District Engineer and the District Manager in accordance with "Notice to Lessees (NTL-2B) Disposal of Produced Water."

Other Hazards

Mud, separation pits, and other containments that are used during the exploration or operation of the lease for the storage of oil and other hazardous materials, should be adequately fenced, posted, or covered. Additional protective measures may be needed to minimize hazards and prevent access to humans, livestock, waterfowl, and other wildlife. The pits should be allowed to dry before backfilling and rehabilitation.

Stockpile Surface Soil

Surface soil material, if available, should be stripped from all areas where surface disturbance is necessary and stockpiled in a manner and location that will allow easy replacement. These stockpiles should be protected from loss.

The depth of surface soil material to be removed and stockpiled may be specified by BLM. After reshaping the site, soil material should be distributed to a uniform depth that will allow the establishment of desirable vegetation. The disturbed areas should be scarified prior to replacement of surface soil material.

Revegetation

Disturbed areas should be revegetated after the site has been satisfactorily prepared. Site preparation may include contour furrowing, terracing, reduction of steep cut and fill slopes, water-barring, etc. The operator will be notified as to species, methods of revegetation, and seasons to plant. Seeding and/or planting should be repeated annually until satisfactory revegetation is accomplished, as determined by the BLM District Manager. Mulching, fertilizing, fencing, or other practices may be required (see Figures 8, 10, and 11).



(7) Example of stockpiled surface soil material at a well site.

Waterbars

The operator will be required to construct waterbars on abandoned roads and pipeline routes. General guidelines for installation of waterbars are: less than 2% grade — 200' spacing, 2%-4% grade — 100' spacing, 4%-5% grade — 75' spacing, greater than 5% grade — 50' spacing. Unstable soils may require a closer spacing, whereas the spacing may be greater on stable soils and rock outcroppings. The waterbars should be constructed to drain freely to the natural ground level and to prevent siltation and clogging (see Figure 9).

Additional Guidelines

Seeding should be by drilling on the contour whenever practical.

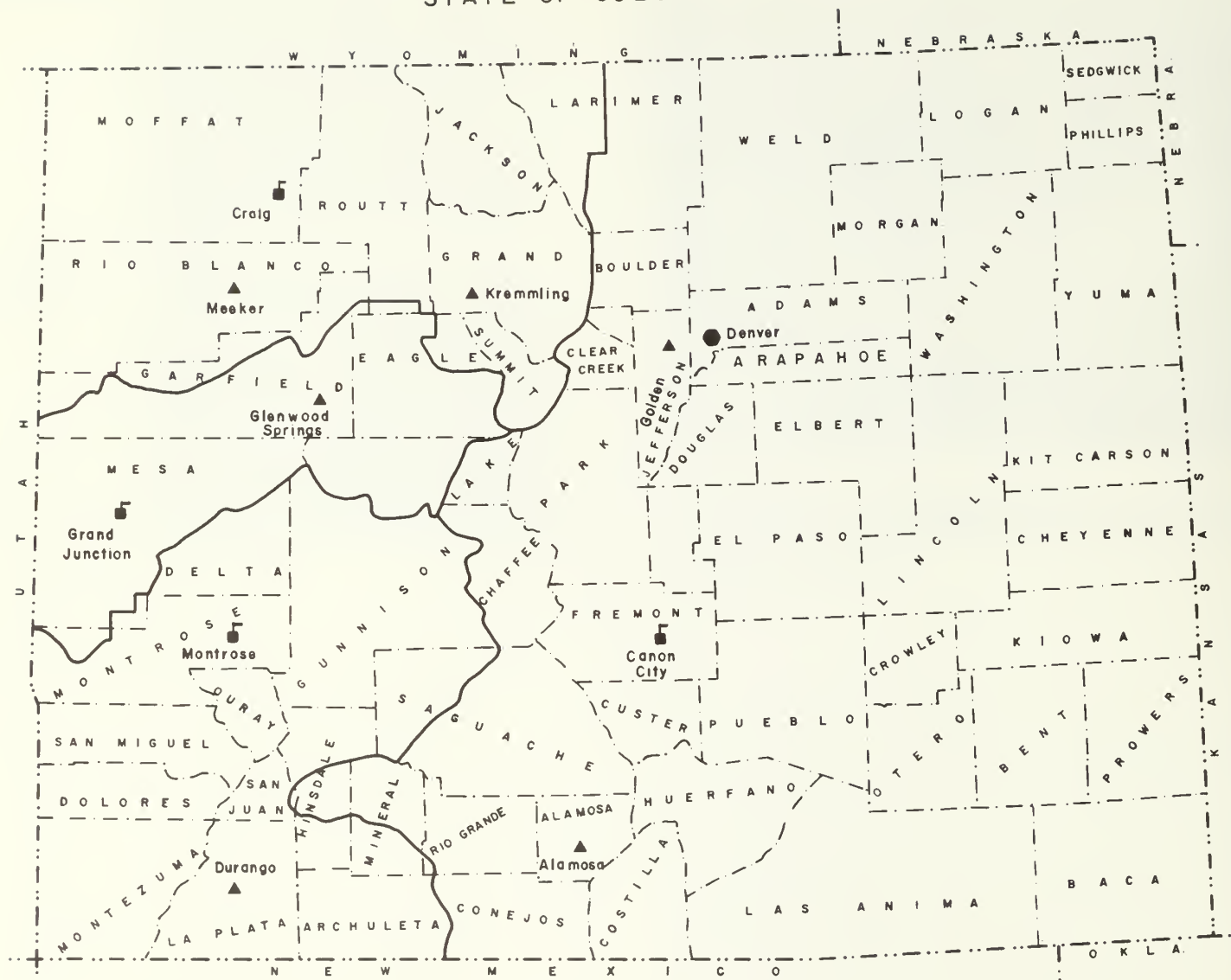
Supplemental guidelines and methods may be available that reflect local site and geographic conditions. These guidelines or methods may be obtained from the local BLM office. Technical advances in rehabilitation practices are continually being developed that may be successfully applied to oil and gas construction practices. Additional guidelines may be continually available.



(8) Example of cut and fill slopes that have been reduced to a gentler slope and graded to conform to the adjacent terrain. Due to the steep slope the pipeline is extensively waterbarred.

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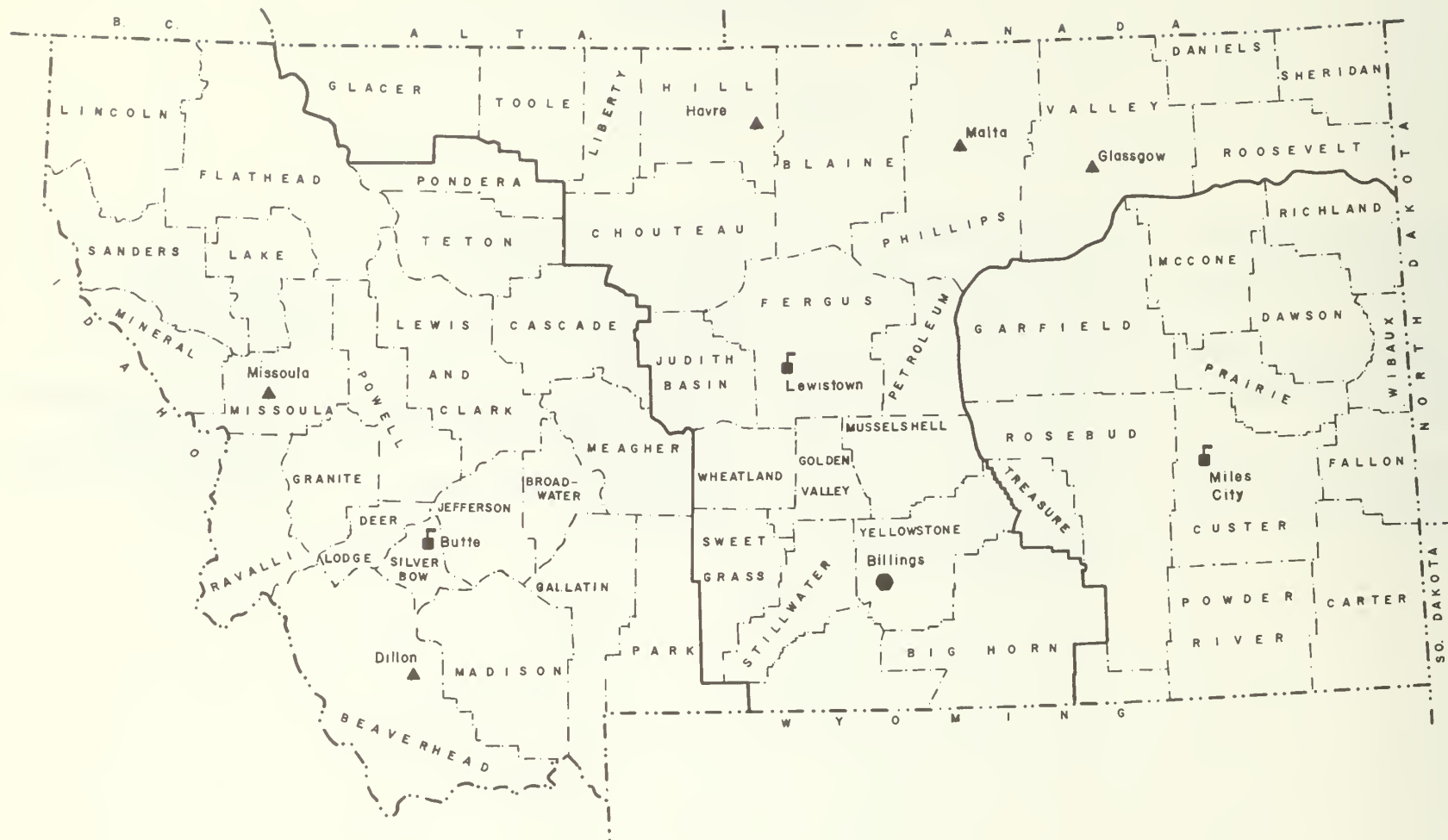
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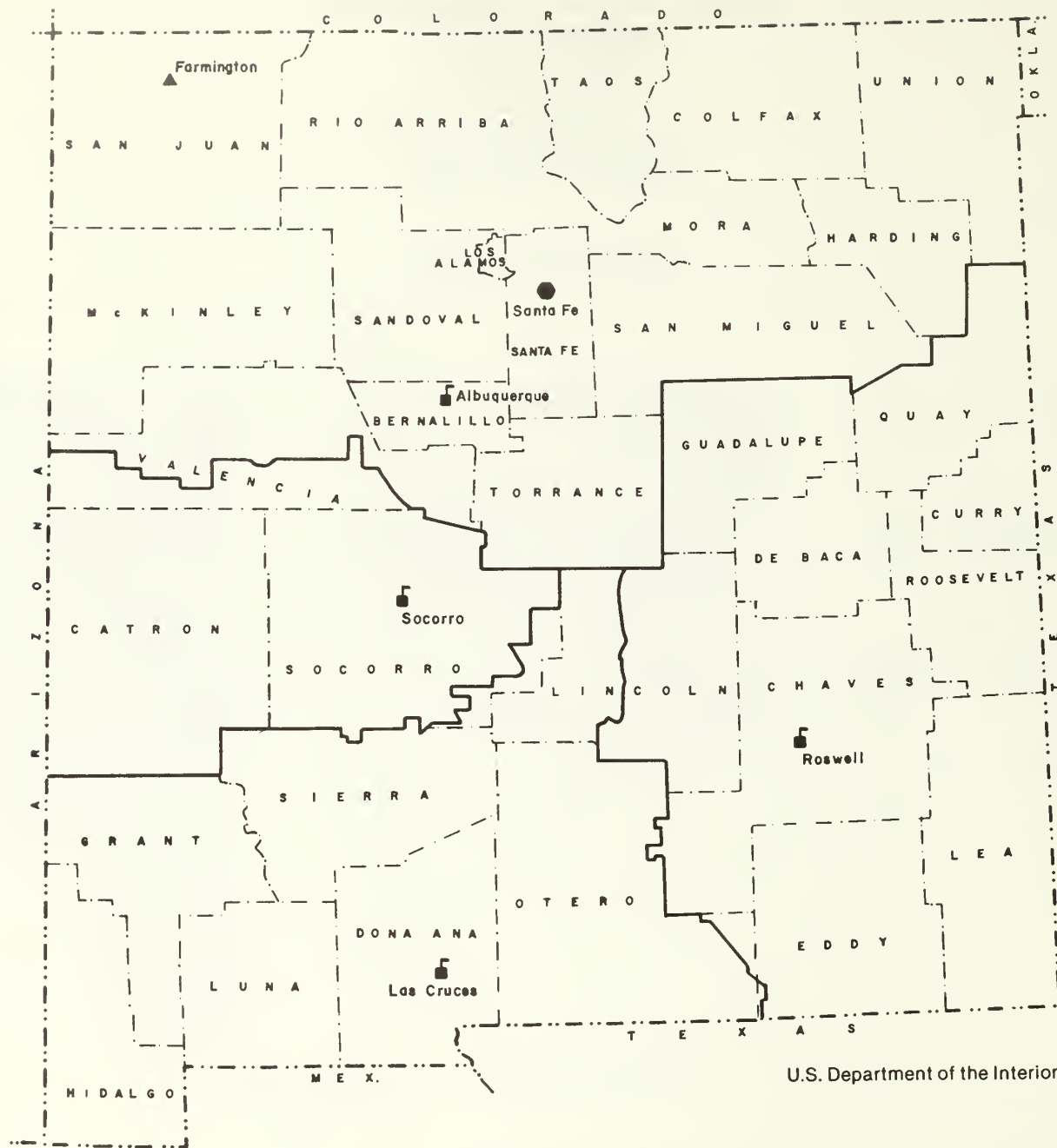
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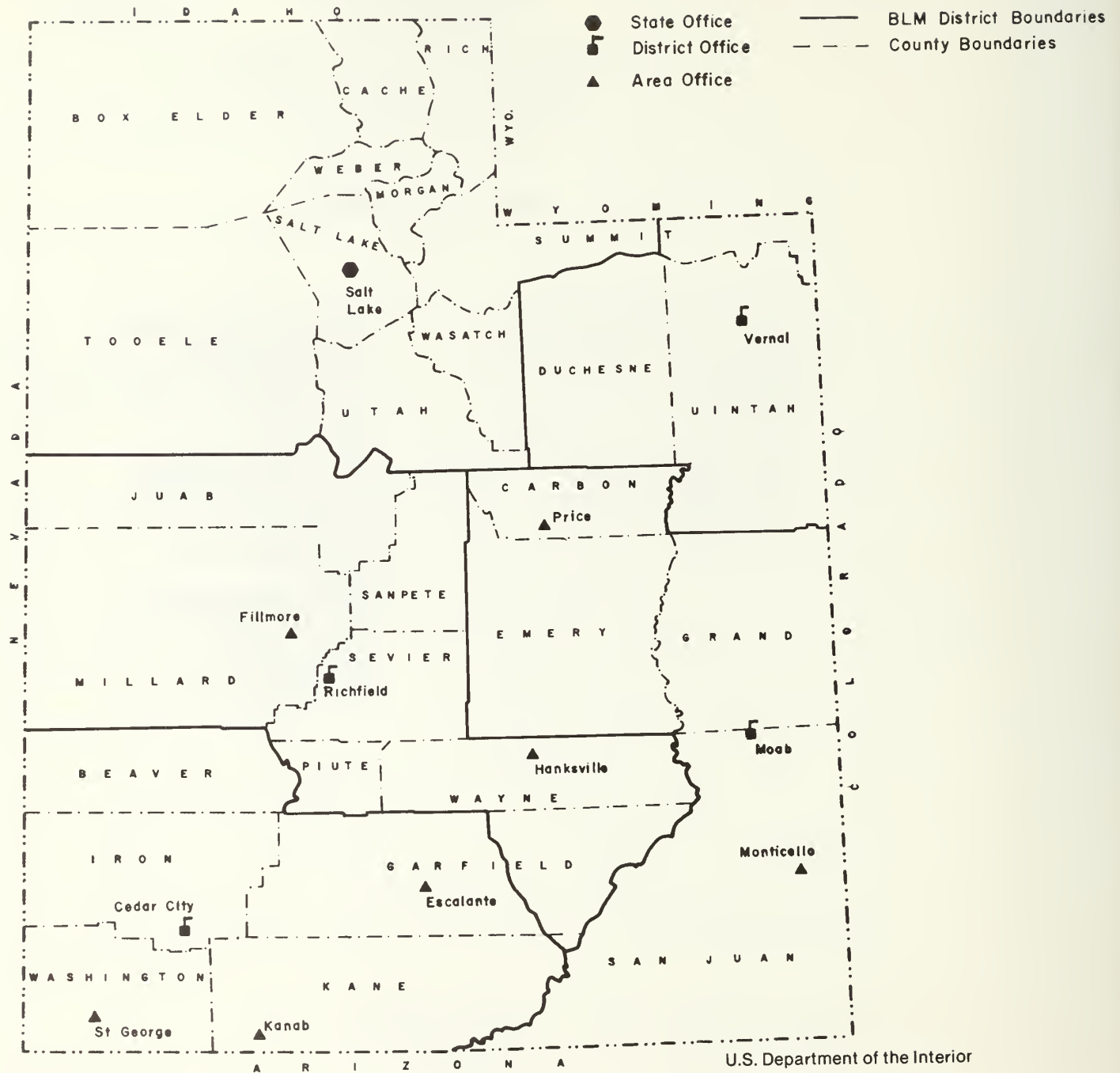
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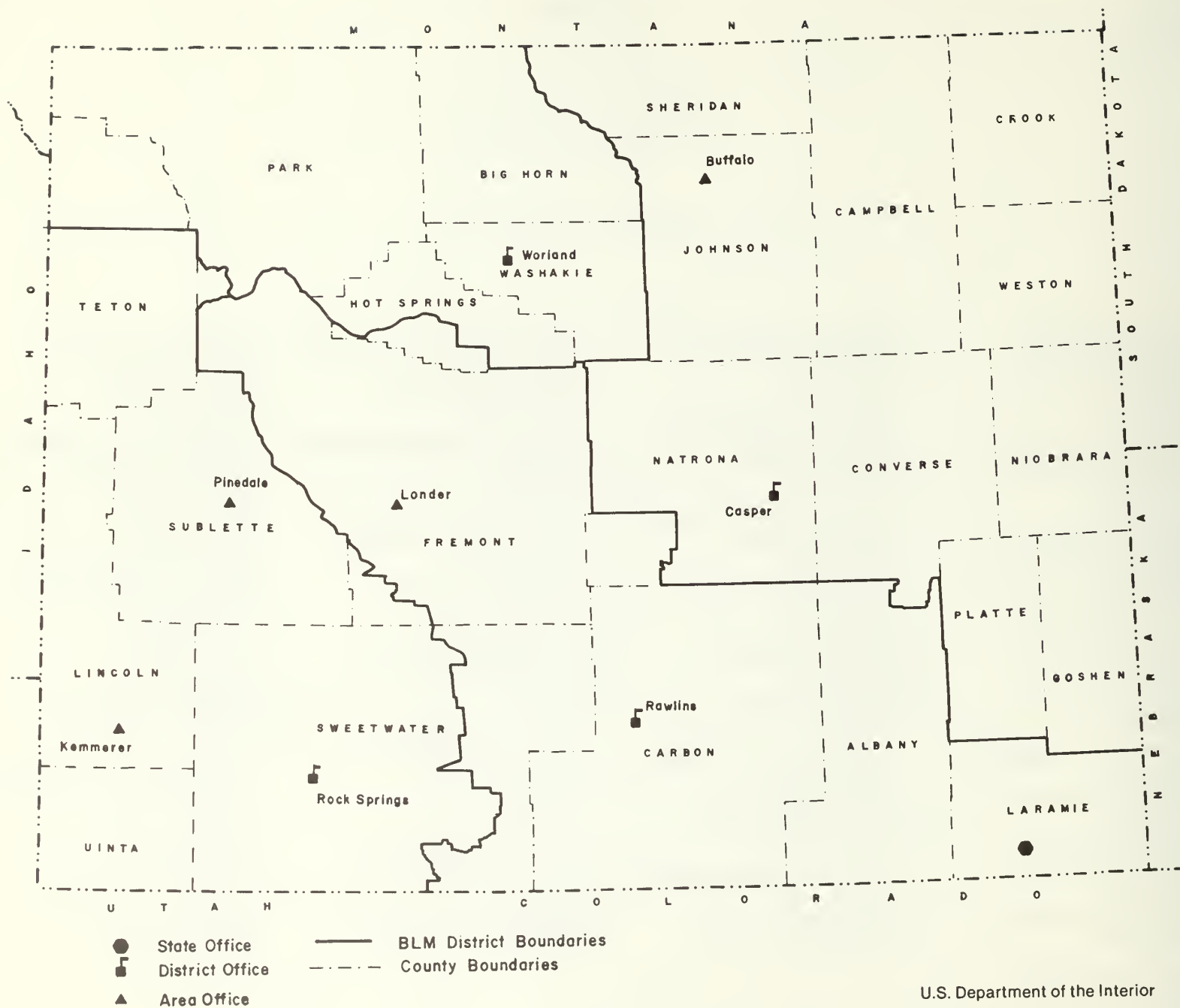
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